

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-8 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,100,116 (“Graushar”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,682,062 (“Rana”).

Graushar does not teach or suggest the elements of amended Claim 1. Rather, Graushar discloses a printer feeder 32 including a print table 34, which supports a single feeder 48 and a printing mechanism 112. Col. 4, lines 46-68; Col. 6, lines 34-37. The printer feeder 32 operates to feed a signature from the feeder 48, print on the signature with printing mechanism 112, and deliver the signature to primary feeder 132 to feed the signature to a binding line. Col. 7, lines 26-30. Graushar does not teach or suggest a pair of hoppers, a first and second feeder, a printer, and a conveyor adapted to transport the printed extracted signatures to the finishing line that are all supported by the same frame.

The Examiner indicates that the row of pocket boxes 10 constitute at least a pair of hoppers and that each box has a feeder associated with it. The Examiner continues that the conveyor belt 106 transports the printed signatures to a primary feeder 132 after printing, which feeds the printed signatures to the binding line. Office Action dated 7/21/04, page 2.

Based on the Examiner’s reasoning, the pocket boxes 10 and the printing mechanism 112 are not on the same frame. The pocket boxes 10 are on a frame supported by the binding line. In contrast, the printing mechanism 112 is supported by the printer feeder 32 frame. The binding line frame and the printer feeder frame are separate and distinct.

Rana does not cure the deficiencies of Graushar. Rather, Rana discloses an off-line make-ready stand 60 that can receive transportable pockets. Col. 4, lines 36-47. Since the pockets are off-line, the pockets can be adjusted and make-ready checks and test feeds can be performed. Col. 4, lines 47-51. When the pockets are needed for a particular production run, the pockets are transported to the gathering machine 10 by an overhead crane 62. Col. 4, lines 51-54. The gathering machine 10 can include a plurality of inserter stations. Each station includes a central conduit 48 which runs the length of the gathering machine 10 and includes the vacuum, air and electrical connections for each pocket. Col. 4, lines 8-15.

Rana does not teach or suggest a pair of hoppers, a first and second feeder, a printer, and a conveyor adapted to transport the printed extracted signatures to the finishing line that are all supported by the same frame. Rana does not teach or suggest printing personalized indicia on the extracted signatures before they are delivered to gathering machine.

Additionally, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the teachings of Graushar and Rana. The feeder 48 on the printer feeder 32 is not removable, nor is there any suggestion that it be removable, from the printer feeder 32 of Graushar. There is no suggestion or motivation to include the transportable pockets of Rana with the printer feeder 32 of Graushar. If the transportable pockets of Rana were combined with Graushar, the transportable pockets of Rana would be positioned on the binding line just like any other binding line arrangement. This arrangement completely obliterates the purpose and need of the printer feeder 32 of Graushar, which is to print personalized indicia on signatures as they are being delivered to the binding line.

For at least the reasons noted above, Graushar and Rana do not teach or suggest the subject matter of Claim 1. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-4 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons Claim 1 is allowable.

Graushar and Rana also do not teach or suggest the elements of Claim 5. As noted above, Graushar and Rana do not teach or suggest a plurality of hopper feeders, a printer, and a conveyor supported by the frame and adapted to transport the extracted printed signatures from the printer to the finishing line that are all supported by the same frame. Also, as noted above, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the teachings of Graushar and Rana. Accordingly, independent Claim 5 is allowable. Claims 6-8 depend from Claim 5 and are allowable for at least the reasons Claim 5 is allowable.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Graushar in view of Rana and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,251,943 ("Kleineberg").

Claim 3 depends from Claim 1 and is therefore allowable for at least the reasons Claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Graushar in view of Rana and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,121,818 ("Riley").

Claim 8 depends from Claim 5 and is therefore allowable for at least the reasons Claim 5 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Billie Jean Smith", written in a cursive style.

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Docket No. 077047-9301-03
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